COLLEGIANI

Vol. 114 | No. 102

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009

SPORTS

Darren Kent, the lone senior on the men's basketball team, has stepped it up this year and become a team leader. See Page 6.

WEATHER

TODAY

High 62 Low 36

WEDNESDAY



High 70 **Low** 44

HEALTH

For easy moves to strengthen the upper body, check out Page 5.

Check out K-State Idol auditions video footage at kstatecollegian.com.



Presidential candidates release expense reports

	TOTAL EXPENSES	NET INCOME	PROFIT(LOSS)	
ROBERT SWIFT/ AMY SCHULTZ	\$2,834.31	\$2,941	\$106.69	
DALTON HENRY/ WAYNE STOSKOPF	\$2,868.36	\$3,078	\$209.64	
ANDREW HUSCHKA/ LAURA R. WHITE	\$4,108.50	\$4,453	\$345	
TRAE D. RICKFORD/ BRANDON WEST	\$324.16	None	\$324.16	
JONATHAN CULVER/ JASON KENNEDY	None	None	None	
—Compiled by Joel Aschbrenner				

K-State Idol to showcase students

By Shelton Burch KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

K-State talent is scheduled to be on display at 7:30 tonight when the finalists for K-State Idol will deliver their performances at the K-State Student Union Forum Hall.

The chairs of the event said they had to coordinate auditions, establish advertising and set up the show for those who were chosen to participate.

"I've pretty much devoted my entire past few days into making sure everything is set up," said Courtney Hauser, Union Program Council music co-chair.

Hauser, a senior in public relations and psychology, said K-State Idol is part of Reality Week, which includes Dancing with the K-State Stars featuring Student Body President Lydia Peele and Willie the Wildcat. The event is scheduled to be at 8 p.m. Thursday in the K-State

Student Union Ballroom.

Hauser said this was the first year the committee has put on Reality Week and said she hopes it will continue in the future.





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Puzzles | Eugene Sheffer

32 "Hail,

33 Don

35 Faucet

Caesar!"

King, e.g.

51 Crystal

52 Trawler

gear 53 Deserve

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11 Benefit

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ACROSS

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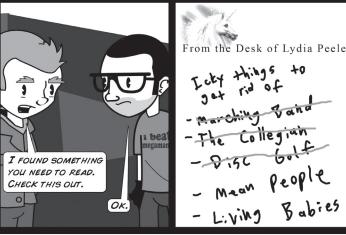
CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

If you see something that should be corrected or clarified, call news editor Ann Conrad at 785-532-6556 or e-mail news@spub.ksu.edu.

KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

The Collegian, a student newspaper at Kansas State University, is published by Student Publications Inc. It is published weekdays during the school year and on Wednesdays during the summer. Periodical postage is paid at Manhattan, KS. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the circulation desk at Kedzie 103, Manhattan, KS 66506-7167. First copy free, additional copies 25 cents. [USPS 291 020] © Kansas State Collegian, 2008

YOU SUCK | BY NOLAN FABRICIUS AND JEFF BROWN



YOU.SUCK.COMIC@GMAIL.COM



THE PLANNER

CAMPUS BULLETIN BOARD

Walk-in Wednesdays will be today from noon to 4 p.m. in Holtz Hall. It is sponsored by Career and **Employment Services.**

Practice interviews will be from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. today and from 9 a.m. to noon Friday in Holtz Hall. It is sponsored by Career and Employment Services.

The College of Business Administration will have an information session for students interested in studying abroad in Italy this fall. The session will be at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday in Calvin 102. A CIMBA representative will be there with a special Italian

The Student Homecoming Committee is seeking applicants. Pick up an application at the K-State Alumni Center or complete one online at www.kstate.com/homecoming. Applications are due at 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

A Dining Etiquette program will be at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in the Gold Room of Derby Dining Center. The session is sponsored by Career and Employment Ross Szabo, author, will present "Why Happy Faces are Hiding: Talking About Depression" at noon Saturday in Forum Hall in the K-State Student Union. The lecture is sponsored by K-State Healthy Decisions and the Pan-hellenic and Interfraternity

Recreational Services is offering an eight-session nutrition class for K-State students and faculty members interested in learning more about making better food choices. The class will meet from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning March 3. The \$25 registration fee includes all eight sessions. Sign up by Friday in the administrative office at Peters Recreation Complex. For more information, contact Melissa Haug at 785-532-6980.

Nomination forms for the Anderson Awards for Outstanding Seniors may be picked up at the K-State Alumni Center or completed at www.k-state. com/programs/awards. Anyone is free to nominate a

senior who has shown outstanding leadership, service, academics or inspiration. The forms are due by 5 p.m. March 6 to the Alumni Center. For questions, call 785-532-6260.

The Graduate School announces the final oral defense of the doctoral dissertation of Mark Harrison at 2:30 p.m. March 12 in Rathbone 3053. The thesis topic is "The Effects of Using Aliovalent Doping in Cerium Bromide Scintillation Crystals."

A \$500 scholarship for the fall semester for nontraditional students is being offered by the League of Women Voters. The deadline is March 15. Check with the Office of Nontraditional Student Services in Holton 101 or www.ksu.edu/adult/scholarships for more information.

The Graduate School announces the final oral defense of the doctoral dissertation of William Bryant at 10:30 a.m. March 25 in Ackert 324. The thesis topic is "Caspases and Caspase Regulators in Lepidoptera and Diptera."

The Planner is the Collegian's bulletin board service. To place an item in the Planner, stop by Kedzie 116 and fill out a form or e-mail news editor Ann Conrad at news@spub. ksu.edu by 11 a.m. two days before it is to run. Some items might not appear because of space constraints but are guaranteed to appear on the day of the activity.

WORD OF THE WEEK ...



beseech \bi-SEECH\ verb:

beseech, besought or beseeched, beseeching

to ask earnestly; implore

EXAMPLE PASSAGE:

"Spare your poor children these vulgarities, I beseech you," his wife might protest, to hone her point that he was not a gentleman.

-writer Peter Matthiessen in "Bone by Bone"

c.1175, Old English "besecan," which means "to beg urgently," from "be-" + Middle English "bisechen," which means "to seek"

-dictionary.com





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PRACTICE

Schedule a practice interview with a CES staff member. Advance registration required, call 532-6506 to make an appointment.

Available Dates: Thursday, February 26 & Friday, February 27 Ideal for Arts & Sciences students in preparation for the upcoming Career Fair however, all students are welcome.

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Robbery reported on Saturday

By Jenene Heavey KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

A fraternity house was damaged Saturday night or Sunday morning, according to a Riley County Police report.

A report on criminal damage to property was filed at Phi Kappa Alpha, 2021 College View Ave., after four couches and wood flooring were destroyed because paint was poured on them

Holes in the walls caused by a broom handle were also reported, resulting in a total loss of \$1,700. No arrests were made.

RCPD Lt. Kurt Moldrup said the damage was caused by someone who was allowed in the home, since there was no bur-

glary report made.

According to another report, a robbery report was made for an incident allegedly occurring Saturday between the 11th block of Kearney St. and eighth block of Fremont St.

block of Fremont St.

Matthew Varner, 20,
of 824 Fremont, report-

See a photo opportunity?

ed a person unknown to him came from behind, knocked him to the ground and took his belongings before fleeing on foot. A cell phone, skateboard, ball cap and cash amounting to a reported value of \$410 were taken. There was no description of the suspect.

Chad Harris, 22, reported an aggravated assault last Sunday.

Moldrup said Harris reported three white men in a green Honda who pulled up to him in the parking lot, cursed and pointed a handgun at him before leaving the area. There was no other information to report at press time

A Manhattan man filed a report Friday of a fraud loss of \$10,712 in Chicago. Thomas Hintz, 60, of 1405 Skyline Drive, reported that someone "stole his identity" to obtain a Citibank credit card and take out a student loan at Columbia University.

Moldrup said he thinks the perpetrator will be caught.

City Commission meeting to discuss Discovery Center, public transportation

By Brandon Steinert KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

The Manhattan City Commission is scheduled to discuss a draft of the comprehensive master plan for the Flint Hills Discovery Center during a work session at 5 p.m. at City Hall today.

Commissioners will also review transportation projects recommended by city administration and an update on utilities involved with the downtown redevelopment near Fourth Street.

The Discovery Center will be fi- from city administration with ad-

nanced through Sales Tax And Revenue Bonds. According to an agenda memo, if the city develops the south downtown redevelopment project without the discovery center, the city would lose out on \$1.8 million per year because of the loss of STAR Bonds that would come with the center.

E. Verner Johnson and Associates Inc. of Boston is the consultant tasked with developing a master plan and will present a draft to the commission tonight.

Commissioners will also hear

vice on various utility projects associated with the south downtown redevelopment project including water and sewer lines and storm water projects.

Various public transportation projects in Manhattan might qualify for funding from federal stimulus

The projects include bicycle and pedestrian facilities and scenic enhancements, according to a memo from City Manager Ron

The work session will be broadcast live on local cable Channel 3.



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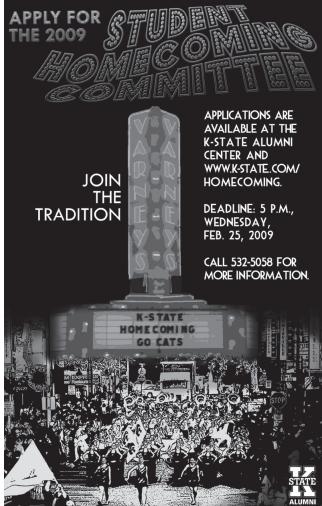
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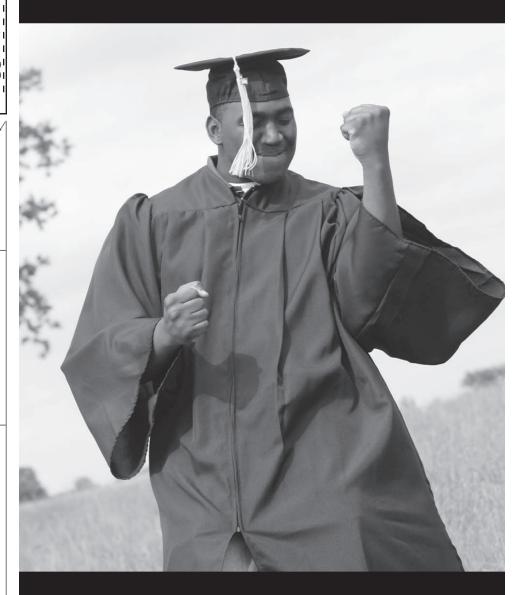
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KANSAS STATF **COLLEGIAN**

Making the cut

SGA presidential candidates need to be ready to serve student body



ADAM PHAM

For once and maybe forever, the student elections are actually important this year.

These are troubled times — on both the global and the domestic front — and next year's student body president will unfortunately be given the right to decide exactly which pennies we're going to pinch.

Anderson Hall has also just backed into a new president of its own, and the president's relationship with the Student Governing Association next year will probably inform student and administration relations for the duration of his tenure. And most relevantly, SGA itself has been an embarrassment this year. Everyone knows it, and if they don't make some better choices next time around, you can bet I won't be the only one complaining. Hopefully, through all the overblown rhetoric

about voices and choices, we'll make a decent choice.

There's an interesting concealed point; our university's recruitment crew makes an awful lot out of the fact that our student government is so comparatively powerful, but is this something about which we should actually be proud? I don't think so, and amid all their bloodletting, I further wonder: why hasn't anyone thought to turn the gun on them?

On more than one occasion this year we have had fully tenured professors with decades of relevant experience forced to plead for their lives to inept, self-important kids who neither know nor care about any of the relevant considerations. Of course the situation has ultimately turned out to be a disaster; it should have. But even aside from the matter of disrespect, we ought to also be asking exactly how our student government managed to get so much authority in the first place.

It's not because Anderson Hall is so interested in the pulse of the students; if they were, they'd use the referendum and actually find out. It's also not because the administration actually trusts the student government; no, when the grown-ups feel sufficiently compelled, they're perfectly willing to intervene — à la the marching band fiasco — and nudge SGA back into its kennel.

It's not as if the absurdity wasn't al-

ready apparent; last year a presidential candidate nearly won the election on the back of the "Ninjas vs. Pirates" meme, and this year he's back, promising to "save the world through juggling." Why would any reasonable administration ever allow this kind of person power? SGA ought to be deciding between Funyuns and Corn Nuts in the campus vending machines, not deciding whether or not the campus arts or media get their necessary funding. Allowing SGA an inch more of power will lead to more of the same confused, obstructionist behavior we've seen this year.

I don't wish to be misunderstood on the general point; many of the student senators are good people who just quietly go about their jobs. Many of them – maybe even most - promptly answer their emails, earnestly listen to their constituents and vote accordingly. I suspect our next student body president is one of these senators. But whoever he might be, he needs to strive for transparency, to never forget that the ultimate prize is not a bolstered résumé but a student body, and to never forget that he serves at our pleasure rather than the other way around. The person we need to elect president is the person who can best make himself vanish.

Adam Pham is a senior in economics. Please send comments to opinion@spub.ksu.edu.

THE FOURUM 785-395-4444

The Campus Fourum is the Collegian's anonymous call-in system. The Fourum is edited to eliminate vulgar, racist, obscene and libelous comments. The comments are not the opinion of the Collegian nor are they endorsed by the editorial staff.

To the guy I danced with at SAE: I'm the girl in the blue hoodie. Why didn't you ask for my number?

I don't know if being allergic to alcohol is a blessing or curse.

This is the blond-headed Swede, and I'm going to Village Inn for \$2.99 all-you-can-eat pancakes. How big a boy are you?

You can't catch him, he's the gingerbread man.

There's a possum stuck in a hole on the south side of Durland.

I went to the Tri-Delt formal and Theta formal this weekend, and the Theta formal was much better. Wish you were there.

Hey, K-State SGA candidates: I haven't been able to decide which one of you I like the best yet. So each of you send me your plans to get rid of the birds swarming around the dorms, and I'll make my decision.

How insecure are the Christians on campus if they have to try to erase and write rebuttals to the signs for the Individuals for Freethought?

Everyone has the right to think outside of the box and outside of brainwashing, and that's what makes us American.

America was founded on people who were tired of being oppressed. Stop trying to erase signs for the Individuals for Freethought.

Good job, baseball team. I'll be there opening day.

Individuals for Freethought is an organization for people who look beyond organized religion. Stop trying to oppress us.

Does anybody know where I can watch the Champions League games this week? Our TV broke, so I need a new place to watch.

I would rather look at a picture of last year's Classy Cats dancing with a giant Jayhawk than have to see another "You Suck" comic.

Real people, real actions. As if fake people can do fake actions? Or even fake people doing real actions? I'm confused.

You might be a college dropout if your overdue fee for books that you left here in 2007 is \$2,600.



Check out our Web site for the rest of today's Fourum.

statecollegian.com

Conservative Islam is important to War on Terror



FRANK MALE

The 11th anniversary of Osama bin Laden's fatwa calling for every Muslim to "kill the Americans and their allies ... in order to liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the holy mosque [Mecca] from their grip," occurred Monday. It has been seven years since the last major terrorist attack on American soil, but the War on Terror is nowhere near cooling down.

On Feb. 19, Pakistani officials admitted that the planning for last year's Mumbai, India, attacks occurred in Pakistan. These attacks were one of the most sophisticated acts of terrorism since Sept. 11, 2001, involving 10 separate shooting incidents. In spite of years and billions spent on coun-

ter-terrorism, there is still a significant recruiting pool and many safe havens for terrorists.

Reducing the recruiting pool has been a top U.S. objective for years, but the past methods have usually been using U.S. forces or sympathetic Islamic moderates. When Iran was taken over by the Ayatollah Khomeni, the U.S. used the secular government of Iraq under Saddam Hussein to balance the region. After hostages were taken in Beruit, Lebanon, moderates in Iran's government were sought out to release the Americans. The first people the United States considered putting in charge of Iraq's fledgling democracy were moderate expatriates. This method doesn't effectively combat terrorism, however.

An unlikely person aided us in the fight against global terrorism last week, though. Al-Qaida founder Sayyid Imam al-Sharif recently wrote "Rationalizing Jihad," wherein he verbally lashes his former compatriots. Sharif wrote the book while serving a life sentence in an Egyptian prison after turning himself in to the authorities.

In the book, he criticizes current methods used by terrorists, explaining that "legitimate terror" must follow Sharia law, and that the Sept. 11 hijackers "entered the United States with [bin Laden's] knowledge, and on his orders double-crossed its population, killing and destroying. The Prophet – God's prayer and peace be upon him – said, 'On the Day of Judgment, every double-crosser will have a banner up his anus proportionate to his treachery." This is betrayal because "if they gave you permission to enter their homes and live with them, and if they gave you security for yourself and your money, and if they gave you the opportunity to work or study, or they granted you political asylum," it is a coward's way to kill them.

Questioning the moral imperative to wage jihad against Americans, Sharif writes, "There is nothing in the Sharia about killing Jews and the Nazarenes [Christians]."

The book is a very important weapon for anti-terrorism forces. Though Sharif was a pioneer in Islamic terror, he has renounced

its current incarnation and set "rules" for terrorism. The rules would make Islamic terror easier to defeat and more civil.

Terrorism and low-intensity

Terrorism and low-intensity conflict have taken the forefront in international confrontations, using much more devastating means. While it seems unlikely that terrorists would restrict themselves to an "honorable" manner of terrorism, several terrorist organizations have already agreed to the terms of the Ottawa Treaty, banning land mines, according to visiting professor Craig Stapley, a terrorism expert in the political science department.

Secular leaders in the Arab world are not going to convince terrorists to lay down their arms. On the other hand, a respected Islamic scholar arguing that current terrorist actions are immoral will actually carry some weight

actually carry some weight.

America would do well to find more conservative Islamists like Sharif.

Frank Male is a senior in physics and political science. Please send comments to opinion@ spub.ksu.edu.

COLLEGIAN Sheila Ellis

Sheila Ellis
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Collegian welcomes your letters to the editor. They can be submitted by e-mail to letters@spub.ksu.edu, or in person to Kedzie 116. Please include your full name, year in school and major. Letters should be limited to 250 words. All submitted letters might be edited for length and clarity.

KANSAS STATE **COLLEGIAN** news@spub.ksu.edu Kedzie 103, Manhattan, KS 66506

THE EDGE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009

PAGE 5

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



Pisces Feb. 19 - Mar. 20 You'll spend your

remaining years hooked up to a machine, which is sad, as it's the kind that checks e-mail and sends out texts.



Aries March 21 - April 19

Your foot will fall asleep Thursday, but not before draining a full bottle of whiskey, throwing up in an abandoned parking lot and repeatedly calling your ex-wife on the phone.



Taurus April 20 -May 20

The ghost of Richard Dean Anderson will soon pay you a visit and spend the entire time insisting he's not dead yet.



Gemini May 21 -June 21

This week, be sure to pray to St. Harold, the Patron Saint of Falling Down the Basement Stairs, Shattering Both Your Hips And Laying Paralyzed Until Someone Gets Home.



Cancer June 22 - July 22

Cancer had its latest prediction all set to go, but then it found out about this cool new thing called Twitter, and, well ... you understand.



Leo July 23 - Aug.

The average human adult has a total of 32 teeth. Look behind the couch, beneath the coffee table and inside the dryer for the remaining 12 or so.



Virgo Aug. 23 - Sept.

The eyes in that painting will seem to follow you around the room, which is quite odd for a Jackson Pollock.



Libra Sept. 23 - Oct. 23

High-powered telescopes will soon allow scientists to peer back at the very birth of the universe, though it's the steamy and rather forceful conception they're more interested in.



Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 21

The good news is that you're dyslexic. The bad news, however, is that you switched the good news and bad news around.



Sagittarius Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Everyone laughed when you sent your dog to the Canine Academy of Design, but they won't be laughing this week when he continues to use their lawn as toilet paper.



Capricorn Dec. 22 -Jan. 19

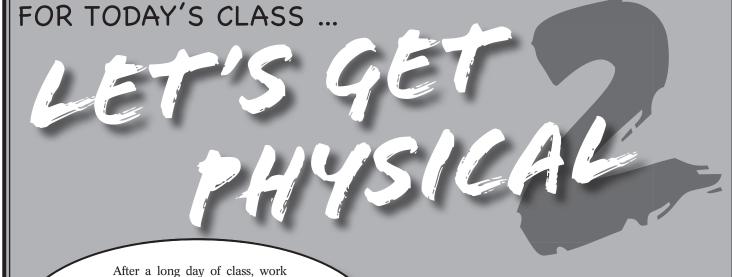
A whirlwind romance will sweep you off your feet this week, before destroying your home, smashing your valuables and dropping you off three states



Aquarius Jan. 20 -Feb. 18

While it's true that every man has his price, yours is the only one clearly labeled at the top of that waffle menu.

—theonion.com



and meetings, college students love to relax in front of the TV to unwind and give our brains a rest.

We often don't feel we have the energy to get up, change clothes and make it to Peters Recreation Complex to work out. However, exercise is good for lowering stress levels and giving us a boost of energy and can be done in almost any living room, even while watching TV.

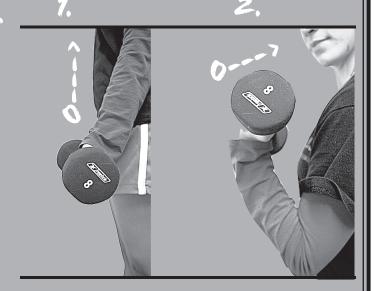
ARM WORKOUTS
MADE EASY IN YOUR
LIVING ROOM

The following moves are a continuation of the shoulder workout that appeared here two weeks ago. I'll continue throughout the semester with simple moves to target various muscle groups, adding up to a full-body toning series. These moves target the biceps and triceps, which should always be strengthened equally to prevent injury due to muscle imbalance. The moves require a sturdy chair, 3- to 8-pound hand weights (\$8.99-10.99 at *Target.com*) and a few minutes of your time.



BICEP/HAMMER CURLS

For bicep curls, start with your arms straight down at your sides, elbows relaxed but not locked and your feet hip-width apart. Hold the weights in your hands so that they are parallel with the floor. Keeping your palms facing up, slowly bring the weights toward your shoulders. Make sure to keep your elbows stationary and your wrists straight, since swinging your arms to move the weights or curling your wrists could result in injury. For hammer curls, repeat the same motion, but with your palms facing each other and the weights parallel. This exercise works another muscle in the arm called the brachioradialis. Do three sets of 10 reps on both arms for bicep curls and hammer curls.



TRICEP KICKBACK

Start with your hands at your hip, elbows bent and pointing straight back. Step forward on the opposite foot of the tricep you're working to create a more stable stance. Lean forward slightly. Straighten your elbow, bringing the weight up behind you. Your arm should make a 30-degree angle with your body. Make sure to keep your upper arm stationary with no movement from the shoulder. Do three sets of 10 reps on each arm.



You'll need a sturdy chair for this movement. Begin by sitting in the chair normally. Place your palms on the edge of the chair. Move your body forward and off the chair so your arms are supporting you. Your fingers should be pointing toward your back. Elbows should be straight, but not locked, legs parallel, knees at a 90-degree angle and abs tight. Slowly bend your elbows to 90 degrees and return to starting position. Do three sets of 10 reps.

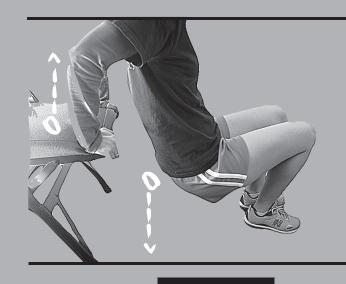


Photo illustration by Lisle Alderton and Caitlin Moser

LIFE AS AN AWKWARD GRAD STUDENT

Student travels to Colorado to fly head first down mountain



REICHENBERGER

"You gonna make it?"
I turned to my friend Dustin who was a few yards down the mountain.

"Shut up. Just shut up."
We were climbing up a mountain known as Buttermilk Hill. We

were headed toward the blue slope where, just the night before, the weekly "Big Air" snowboarding competition was held. Needless to say, it was very steep and full of ramps. We were going to sled it.

Dustin, another friend – Scott – and I arrived at our Aspen, Colo., resort earlier that day. It was 4:30 a.m. We had driven all night.

At 9:30 a.m. I woke up to someone giving the top of my head a kiss. It was our friend Nick we had all come to visit. There were nine of us – the Buttermilk Hill Gang. Dustin, Scott and I drove 22 hours to be in Aspen for 24 hours. It was well worth it.

Our friends Julia and Adam made us breakfast, and by 11 a.m. we were on the road headed to

do what we do. We loaded up on clothes, rented helmets and headed to the "hill."

We were able to drive most of the way up so that we only had to hike the last 2,000 vertical feet. Yeah — only 2,000. It was miserable. Except for our friend Tamara, who seemed to bounce up the mountain, we were all regretting the decision with every step.

So there we were, standing on the mountain, staring down on Colorado, half wanting to laugh, half trying not to pee our pants. Nine of us. About to embark on what might be the greatest or worst adventure of our lives.

Most of the nine sat on their sleds and shoved off. Scott and I, seemingly without hesitation, took

a short sprint and dove down the mountain, flying head first, having no idea what was coming next.

It was awesome until we found the ramps. While it seemed like we were about to crash into some trees, the sled always knew where to go.

Flying down a mountain, you don't really have time to react.
But when you see a ramp coming, you'll do whatever you can to avoid it. So what do you do? Bail out. So I rolled off the sled.

But what you don't realize is that you're on a mountain going very, very fast. Whether you're on the sled or not, you're going to hit that ramp, and you're going to fly you're high and yeary for

very high and very far.
So there I am, sliding down

this mountain, no sled now, just me, and then the ramp. And we laughed at the idea of helmets ... I soared off in a corkscrew fashion and slammed into the ground. My body proceeded to bounce for another 10 yards or so — not roll, mind you. No, I had flown up too high to roll. No. I was bouncing.

Now I know what you're thinking: dumb. But trust me, it's something you have to try — far and away the most exhilarating experience of my life. I laughed most of the way down. It was incredible. Go. Try it.

Adam Reichenberger is a graduate student in economics and mathematics. Please send comments to edae@spub.ksu.edu.

KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

Battling to the top

Kent's work leads to more playing time, points

Cole Manbeck K-STATE COLLEGIAN

K-State coach Frank Martin arrived at K-State as Bob Huggins' right-hand man in

He was greeted with a roster of leftovers from the Jim Wooldridge era – a group that had some talent but had yet to learn how to win

But there was one player in particular who might have drawn some skepticism about whether he could make it in Huggins' tough-minded and rugged system – one that required strength and a tough defensive mentality.

It was Darren Kent, who at the time, barely eclipsed the 200-pound mark on the scale. But the 6-foot-11, 230-pound senior battled through difficult times, committed himself to getting stronger and is finally, after all his hard work, reaping the rewards.

SOMETHING NEW

Kent stood in the dark Bramlage Coliseum tunnel with reporters engulfing him, microphones and recorders in his face. A bright light beamed off a camera, causing him to squint.

This was all new for the native of Apple Valley, Minn., who had only scored 104 points in his first three years of wearing a K-State uniform. He was rarely, if at all, treated to such a media onslaught in previous years.

But Martin said he never doubted him and always knew Kent had a chance to turn into a solid player in one of the toughest leagues in America – the Big 12 Conference.

"We've pushed him real hard," said Martin, who is the second-fastest coach in school history to reach 40 wins. "We've been on him on how good we thought he could be. We pushed him hard enough where he was gonna become a good player, or he was just gonna leave.

"Obviously, he didn't want to leave. He's chosen to grow and that's why he's played as well as he's played for us this year."

Martin said it was all about Kent getting stronger and developing a commitment to getting better.

"He needed to become a stronger athlete," he said. "To have success in the Big 12, you better have some strength. He needed to commit himself to becoming a better player.

"He wouldn't spend the amount of time he needed to grow individually, and he's done that, and that's why he was such an important part to our team last year. That's why he was able to deal with guarding Mike [Beasley] and Bill [Walker] in practice, and that's why he's been able to accept the responsibility this year," Martin said.

CHANGING INTO A LEADER

As Kent's game has evolved, so has his personality. He has become not only a vocal leader on the court but a man who leads by example.

The lone Wildcat senior leads the team in rebounding with 5.6 per game and is tied



Jonathan Knight | COLLEGIAN

Darren Kent, senior forward, reaches up to rebound a shot against lowa State on Feb. 3 in Bramlage Coliseum. He scored 10 points and had nine rebounds during the game.

for fourth on the team in scoring with nine points a game.

Martin pointed to the second half of the KU game in Lawrence as the turning point for Kent. Since that time, Kent has averaged 10.4 points per conference game while grabbing 5.4 rebounds during the 10-game stretch.

He is also often relied upon to guard the opposition's best interior player.

Kent has developed a degree of toughness not often seen on the hardwood. During the Iowa State game last Saturday, Kent took a nose-breaking elbow from teammate Luis Colon. The injury sent him to the bench, but only briefly.

"Two years ago, he doesn't get back into that game after he breaks his nose," Martin said. "Now he's accepted the responsibility that he needs to help this team succeed. So he popped that nose back into place and immediately said 'Get me back in there,' and that's a sign of a guy that's willing to lead"

Kent said his performance on the court is all a matter of confidence this year, something he no longer lacks.

"I just worked really hard this summer on my game," said Kent, who has seen 590 minutes of action this year, 13 more than he had seen his whole previous career combined. "I tried to work on my post moves a little more.

"During games I just try to assert myself. The key for me has been just staying aggressive on offense and creating a presence."

There may have been a fair share of doubters when Kent set foot on campus four years ago. But years later, Kent has left nothing to doubt.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Richmond turns into 'court wizard,' ready for NBA

During Saturday's game against Nebraska, K-State will retire the jersey of one of the greatest Wildcat basketball players, Mitch Richmond. Here's a look back to his time at K-State before he left for the NBA.

> Written by Tom Morris ROYAL PURPLE, 1988

In his senior year at K-State, Mitch Richmond was the E.F. Hutton of Wildcat basketball. When the ball was in his hands, people stopped to watch. Here's some of the rave reviews he received during the 1986-87 campaign:

"Richmond has major-league moves," said Hubbie Brown, former coach of the New York Knicks. "He is an inside player, he is a wing player off the dribble and he has a great ability to make the long shot under

pressure."

"Richmond should be a firstround draft pick in the next National Basketball Association draft,"
the Blue Ribbon College Basketball
Yearbook said. "He can legitimately
do it all"

"If he doesn't make it in the pros, I'll eat my shoes," said former NBA star Bob Lanier. Remember, Lanier wore size 19 shoes.

As the season progressed, more and more people wanted a share of Richmond's time. National publications, such as Sports Illustrated and the Sporting News ran feature articles on the 6-foot-5-inch, 225-pound senior guard/forward. This was in addition to local and regional media coverage, but it was all part of the transition game Richmond had played his entire life.

When Richmond came to K-State via Moberly (Mo.) Junior College in 1986, considerable attention was given to Norris Coleman and his continuing struggle with the

NCAA to regain eligibility following a high-school transcript snafu. Coleman eventually said goodbye to Manhattan and went pro, leaving Richmond to the media vultures.

Richmond wasn't bothered by the "hype," as he called it, as proven by his scoring average, which climbed to more than 23 points per game before the season ended.

"I think I handled the media pressure really well," Richmond said. "I didn't really think about what the media said. I just wanted to have a

great senior year."

When K-State's season ended, there were more transitions to be made. Questions were raised about Richmond's ability to adjust to the

big guard position in the NBA.
Wildcat coach Lon Kruger said

there would be no problems.

"There's no doubt in my mind that he can play shooting guard in the NBA," Kruger said. "The bottom line on Mitch is that he's a player who can handle a couple of different positions very capably. He has talent, and that's what the scouts recognize."

Richmond adjusted to making transitions. He was ineligible his freshman and part of his sophomore seasons at his Florida high school, and needed a summer course to graduate. That's all past news as he was ready to receive his degree in social sciences in May.

Even with two years of junior college under his belt to help him adjust, the transition to K-State wasn't entirely easy for Richmond.

"I'd have to admit, I was kind of scared at first," Richmond said. "When I got here, the coaches pretty much told me I was going to be the one that they counted on to lead this team."

It was a big transition for Richmond to come to a school with



ROYAL PURPLE FILE I

While **Mitch Richmond** (left) was playing his last year for the Wildcats, **Fred McCoy** was playing his first. McCoy was expected to take over Richmond's place as star forward for the Wildcats after Richmond graduated.

a rich basketball tradition like K-State's. Maybe it helped that he was a little naive. He only knew about Norris Coleman and Rolando Blackman. Still, it's only fitting that in the last magical season of Ahearn

Field House, another court wizard was here to make the transition to the Fred Bramlage Coliseum truly memorable.

—Compiled by Brad Dornes

Awaji's help could be crucial for team



BRAD DORNES

Who would have thought that playing North Carolina Central in the middle of Big 12 Conference play would allow one of the K-State men's basketball players to emerge from near obscurity?

Buchi Awaji came off the bench and scored 12 points against the Eagles last Tuesday. His performance during that game could have been the reason he got the chance to play against the Iowa State Cyclones on Saturday.

But head coach Frank Martin doesn't play favorites. Before any player steps on the court for K-State, he must prove to Martin in practice that he can play defense up to Martin's standards.

The Wildcats wouldn't have been able to escape Ames, Iowa, with a win had it not been for Awaji. When the Cyclones' Craig Brackins had completely taken over the game — scoring 16 straight points for the team in the first half — Awaji hit a crucial 3-pointer with three seconds left in the half to pull the Wildcats within five points at halftime.

Awaji's shot came at a time when both Denis Clemente and Jacob Pullen were struggling. Pullen only scored two points in the first half and finished with just eight, while Clemente had zero points in the first half and finished with nine points.

Awaji finished the game with just seven points, but he gave the Wildcats the offensive push they desperately needed.

Öffense has never been a problem for Awaji. In 2007-08, at Citris Community College in Covina, Calif., he averaged 16.5 points on 54.9-percent shooting from the field, including hitting 40 percent from behind the 3-point

If Awaji is to see more playing time, Chris Merriewether's minutes would be greatly diminished. Merriewether is the epitome of what Martin looks for in his players. He is a solid defender, he hustles after loose balls and he does the little things that allow Pullen and Clemente to be effective.

Plus, he is one of the truly good guys in all of K-State sports. After the loss to Nebraska earlier this season, Merriewether was one of the few players who was willing to talk to the blood-thirsty media. He answered every question and didn't try to dodge any. That night proved how much character he really had.

Merriewether's only problem is that when he is on the court, he becomes an offensive liability. Merriewether averages just one point per game and sometimes looks lost on the offensive side of the

K-State is a team built on defense and must take advantage of every chance it gets on offense.

As the end of the season looms closer, and with K-State having trouble getting off the NCAA tournament bubble, look for Awaji to provide the Wildcats with a muchneeded offensive boost off the bench.

Brad Dornes is a senior in print journalism. *Please send comments to sports@spub.ksu.edu*.

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SGA candidates sound off on platforms

"What is the most important issue for K-State students, and how will you deal with it?"

JONATHAN CULVER

A: "One thing that needs to change is the whole process of SGA. SGA is so in their own world. They try to say, like a typical politician, 'We are for the students.' But they're not. If they were truly for the students, then students wouldn't have so many problems with them. SGA is in their own little world not thinking about what is best for the students, and they're screwing us over. There are so many people who do not know about SGA; they don't know who they are; they don't know what they do."

DALTON HENRY

A: "The cost of tuition and the affordability and access to higher education are the most important issues. If you talk to any student walking down the sidewalk, I doubt there are very many that aren't

thinking about finances.

"I think our platform addresses that in a couple of ways. Our 'Real Connections' program is really targeted at getting our K-State grads jobs and also getting current students internships. Our safety program, although it doesn't directly affect that, is a financially feasible program right now. Really all of our platforms, with the exception of safety, focus on the affordability and access of higher educa-

ANDREW HUSCHKA

A: "There are a ton of important issues facing K-State right now. I guess the most important issue right now would be budget cuts. They are the most important right now because if they are around 3 to 4 percent, it is something K-State can deal with, but if we get up into that 7- to

'We're going to try to do our best to try to have our voice heard at the Board of Regents to make sure the budget cuts are as minimal as possible for higher education in Kansas."

TRAE RICKFORD

A: "I think the biggest issue right now is finances. We want to make sure we preserve financial aid at a respectable level. Then, if the budget cuts hit us really hard, at least we are preserving scholarship and work-study opportunities for students.

"We want to start looking at ways to start cutting costs within the university, as far as limiting new construction and making sure that current construction is done in an efficient way. I don't think adding any new construction projects is

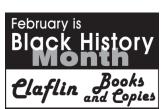
8-percent range, it's going to hurt here on a very wise decision, and if SGA has any part in that, I think SGA should recommend very frugal policies."

ROBERT SWIFT

A: "Probably the most important issue that will affect the widest range of students is the budget cuts. We are in danger of losing parts of K-State that are crucial to success and particularly to our students' success.

"First, it is important that we work with our new president, the deans and other parts of our administration to make sure they understand and evaluate what programs are important to the students. Something Amy and I say a lot, with the cuts going on, is, 'It's time for K-State to secure its base of what it truly is."

—Compiled by Joel Aschbrenner and Tim Schrag







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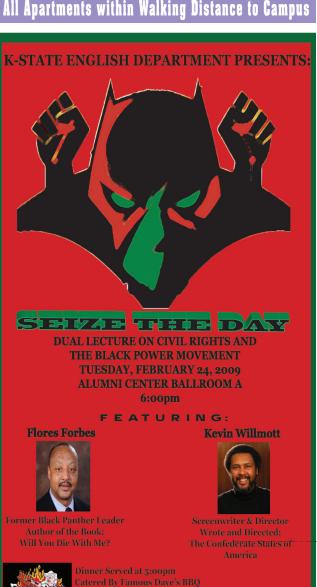
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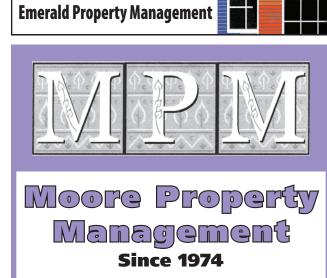
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